

The gross disparity of denying SSI to the territories is particularly significant, coupled with the fact that the total Federal expenditures for all cash assistance programs, including the Aid to Families with Dependent Children and the adult assistance programs, are capped each year for the insular areas. For Guam, the Federal cap is \$3.8 million per year. In fiscal year 1994, Guam spent under Federal mandate approximately \$15 million to provide Federal assistance to eligible low-income individuals.

Today, I am seeking a quality of treatment for the people of Guam and the Virgin Islands in comparison with those residents of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Citizenship in this country and the privileges associated with it should not be measured by geographic choice, in residency, or the size of one's pocketbook. Whether one chooses to live in Alaska, Florida, or the Virgin Islands, a federally funded program should be accessible to everyone. However, if you are residing in Agana, Guam, or St. Croix, Virgin Islands, you are not eligible for SSI benefits.

Finally, providing SSI benefits to Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands will provide the well-being of low-income aged, blind, and disabled residents of our island economies who are dependent on imports from the States and foreign markets.

Guam and the Virgin Islands have been associated with Uncle Sam for many years. In a partnership associates share in the benefits of the association. Uncle Sam, it is time to share the wealth and the responsibility of caring for your partners. We on Guam have fulfilled our responsibilities by giving up one-third of our island for national security, giving our sons and daughters to fight in wars all over the world, and giving loyalty to the American flag every day of our lives.

And here is the fundamental craziness in SSI eligibility, both from the past and into the present. The Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas is included and eligible under current SSI regulations, and they are 40 miles from Guam and have been associated with the United States since 1976 and became citizens at that time. Guam, whose people have been under the U.S. flag since 1898 and became citizens in 1950, and the Virgin Islands, whose people came under the flag in 1917 and became citizens in 1927, are ineligible.

Why the loyalty and dedication of the citizens of these two territories goes unrewarded while others assume benefits, including noncitizens resident in this country? Who knows. But we want to fix it, and this is one of the things that we can fix, and we can fix today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in extending the SSI benefit to the two insular territories of Guam and the Virgin Islands.

#### SUPPORT THE RISK ASSESSMENT AND COST-BENEFIT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Act. We must put an end to the overreaching bureaucrats whose choking regulations threaten American people every day. We must make the first rule of our regulatory system common sense. The bill will force Federal bureaucrats to use a little more common sense.

The examples of Federal regulatory nonsense are too numerous for me to mention here. Some are painful and some are just plain absurd. A pair that come to mind include an OSHA rule that cost the dental industry over \$2 billion but produced no measurable improvement in worker safety, or then there's OSHA's attempt to declare bricks a potentially poisonous substance—yes, bricks. I imagine it is only a matter of time before some bureaucratic genius issues an advisory that says, "If Americans stopped driving their cars, there would be a lot fewer auto accidents."

Mr. Speaker, the way to bring sensibility to Federal regulations is to apply risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis as in our bill. The EPA and the FDA's own estimates suggest that their new regulations cost the economy as much as \$12 billion each year. Our bill will force these bureaucrats to prove that the cost is worth the benefit we receive from those regulations. It will force agencies to focus on the most dangerous risks to society. It will force regulators to look at the effectiveness of \$10 million solutions versus \$100 million solutions.

Our opponents will argue that this legislation will roll back existing regulations. They will argue that this bill will endanger the safety of Americans. Mr. Speaker, the EPA Director, Carol Browner, went so far as to say, "20 years of protection of our children, our air, our land, and our water are being rolled back in the dead of night." Nothing could be further from the truth. Mr. Speaker, EPA Director Browner's remarks only show how desperate Federal bureaucrats are to hold on to the coercive power they now have over American business and the American people.

The main principle of our regulatory reform system must be common sense. The Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Act will force Federal bureaucrats to focus their regulatory efforts on what will benefit Americans the most. It will prevent Federal bureaucrats from forcing industries to spend millions, even billions of dollars without proving with good science the responsibility of that action. It will force Federal bureaucrats to give cost-effective solutions the same consideration and the same

weight as the extravagant ideal solutions they pursue today.

Mr. Speaker, it is past time that we recognize that our resources are not boundless. If we are to save ourselves from the debt that is crushing us every day, we must force Federal regulators to behave responsibly and ease the burden they place on our economy.

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#### THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRAPO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. TIAHRT] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Senate will vote on the balanced budget amendment and they are one vote short. That is an issue that is very much needed by all Americans.

We must balance the budget. We must provide this discipline to end the deficit spending and to shrink Government and reduce the tax burden.

Over the last 25 years we have been unable to exercise the self-discipline of a balanced budget. So passage of the balanced budget amendment means an ending to the liberal welfare state just like passage of regulatory reform meant an end to the nanny state.

The balanced budget amendment is not only important to this generation, Mr. Speaker, but it is important to the next generation. We are \$4.5 trillion in debt. The balanced budget amendment starts a glide path that gets us down to the year 2002. It is a 7-year plan.

My oldest child Jessica is now 14 years old. In 7 years she will be 21. She will be out of college. She will be paying taxes and contributing to society. So it will be up to her generation to pay off the debt because we have spent their money. If it takes as long to pay off the debt as it took for us to spend it, to raise the debt, than she will be nearly 50 years old.

One vote away. Mr. Speaker, we must have this discipline. Because if we do not get this discipline, Americans, I fear, will lose faith in this economy and in this system of self-governance, just like Mexico recently lost faith in their economy. It caused a near economic collapse, and we are still struggling with the solution to that problem.

We just ask that the Senate join with the Republicans in the House and all across the Nation who want a balanced budget amendment because we are committed to stopping the out-of-control spending and the out-of-control regulation. We are working hard for real change and for keeping our promises.